

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT



A monthly newsletter of the Idaho Department of Labor

Volume 14.10

October 2002 Issue/August 2002 Data

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State Overview

The seasonally adjusted preliminary unemployment rate for August 2002 was 5.3 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from July. Idaho's August unemployment rate was four-tenths of a percentage point above the 4.9 percent rate experienced one year ago. The current unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 5.7 percent, which decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from July.

There were 800 more people working in Idaho in August from July 2002, but this number was partially offset by a small decrease of 100 jobless workers. As a result, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased to 690,100.

The job growth rate in Idaho has been much slower during 2002 than experienced in prior years. While Idaho's economy continues to create jobs, it is not keeping up with demand. In August 2002 there were 500 more people working than in August 2001, but there were 3,000 more people unemployed. Most industries in Idaho had fewer jobs in August 2002 than they had in August 2001. Of the industries that had more, however, *Health Services*, *Federal Government*, *Local Government*, and *Management & Public Relations Services* industries added the most. Fall agricultural activity is expected to provide more jobs during September when the harvest and processing of the 2002 crops begins in earnest. This growth could not offset the loss of jobs in *Local Government Education*. The year-over-year changes in the number of persons employed and unemployed in Idaho created an increase in the labor force of 0.5 percent, or 3,500 people.

Nationally, the number employed in August experienced a year-over-year increase for the first time in 2002 with 66,000 more people employed than one year ago. This increase contributed to the 1.2 million increase in the U.S. civilian labor force.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for eight Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho. The Panhandle LMA and the Idaho-Lewis LMA each had the highest unemployment rate in August at 8.9 percent, seasonally adjusted. The Panhandle LMA and the Idaho-Lewis LMA alternate in posting the highest monthly unemployment rate. The economies of these areas are very different in that the majority of jobs in the Panhandle region are in *Services-*

Producing Industries while the Lewis-Idaho LMA economic vitality largely depends upon *Lumber and Wood Products, Forest Service, and Agriculture*, including ranching.

Among all LMAs, the Bonneville LMA and Magic Valley LMA had the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in August, both at 3.2 percent. The Bonneville LMA has had the lowest unemployment rate among LMAs for every month in 2002.

The Boise City MSA (Ada and Canyon Counties) is the state's most populated LMA. The MSA has just over 34 percent of the state's *Civilian Labor Force*. The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.9 percent was below the statewide average even though it had the largest number of unemployed persons and accounted for 33.5 percent of the state's unemployed.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE

Of the 44 counties in the state, three experienced double-digit seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in August.

- Clearwater County at 13.9 percent, up from 13.4 percent in July.
- Adams County at 13.7 percent, down from 12.9 percent in July.
- Shoshone County at 11.0 percent, down from 11.1 percent in July.

Only one county, Madison, reported a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate below 3.0 percent in August. Even though the county's August unemployment rate was 1.8 percent, it was a slight increase from the July rate of 1.7 percent. There were eight additional counties with rates of 3.5 percent or lower in August. All of these counties are in the southern, heavily agricultural part of the state.

CITY LABOR FORCE

Unemployment rates are calculated for seven cities in Idaho. Nampa experienced the highest rate in August at 7.4 percent, up from 6.6 in July. The lowest rate was in Lewiston at 3.1 percent. Boise had the greatest number unemployed and Twin Falls had the least.

AGRICULTURE

An estimated 41,690 people provided farm labor to Idaho producers in August. The hired worker component of this workforce was 32,010 persons, about 77 percent of the total. The number of hired workers decreased from July as much of the peak season crop work (hoeing, thinning, etc.) was completed and irrigation needs started to taper off. New activities began, including the harvest of grain and row crops such as beans and potatoes. There were more hired workers in August 2002 than in August 2001. This is because of normal crop rotation practices, and because land was not set aside to conserve energy this year.

Estimates of prices, production, and yields for selected commodities were published in the September 13 issue of *"Agriculture*

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IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the United States Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to:

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or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

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in Idaho," a bulletin produced by the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Idaho producers of feed barley, dry beans, all wheat, beef cattle, steers and heifers, and all milk are receiving prices above one year ago, according to preliminary indications of mid-August 2002 prices. It is too early to estimate 2002 prices for potatoes and sugar beets because those harvests have not been completed.

Most agriculture producers have been able to cope with a marginal water situation this summer. Rain has been sparse, stored water is being used up, and underground water has become more difficult to obtain. Luckily, periods of cooler weather during the hot summer months have helped. Nevertheless, the following 17 counties have had emergency drought declaration orders issued for them (as of September 23, 2002): Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Blaine, Bonneville, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Oneida, and Power. All of these counties are in southern Idaho and most are a part of the Snake River system, which is the primary source of irrigation water and hydroelectric power needed for well and irrigation pumps.

In spite of the dry weather, Idaho has not had any large wildfires in its forests or rangelands as of early October. Other western states experienced very damaging fires and this kept the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise busy as it coordinates the fire-fighting efforts and logistics for these states.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

State Table 2 presents the estimates of statewide Nonfarm Payroll Jobs by major industries.

The August 2002 number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in Idaho remained unchanged from the previous month and was 8,000 less than August 2001—a decline of 1.4 percent. This continues the four-month trend in which the current year total of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is less than the year-over-year total. This supports the opinion that Idaho's employment downturn began in Spring 2001 and that, although there are signs the downturn is abating, it still persists. The year-over-year decreases are likely to continue for another year or two due to the effects of major layoffs and plant closures.

The *Goods-Producing Industries* added 400 jobs from July 2002 but the gain was not large enough to offset the loss of 400 jobs in the *Service-Producing Industries*, hence the number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* (568,300) did not change.

State Table 1: August 2002 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	35,544	1,595	4.5	33,950
Nez Perce County	23,233	839	3.6	22,394
Asotin County, WA	12,311	756	6.1	11,555
Boise City MSA	251,389	12,363	4.9	239,025
Ada County	181,224	7,592	4.2	173,632
Canyon County	70,165	4,771	6.8	65,393
Pocatello City MSA*	39,677	2,227	5.6	37,450
Bonneville LMA	83,717	2,642	3.2	81,075
Bingham County	22,674	736	3.2	21,938
Bonneville County	48,624	1,476	3.0	47,148
Butte County	1,671	58	3.5	1,613
Jefferson County	10,748	371	3.5	10,376
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	19,403	1,171	6.0	18,232
Cassia County	9,623	537	5.6	9,087
Minidoka County	9,779	634	6.5	9,145
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,850	699	8.9	7,151
Idaho County	6,272	580	9.2	5,692
Lewis County	1,578	120	7.6	1,459
Panhandle LMA	92,674	8,231	8.9	84,443
Benewah County	4,478	437	9.8	4,041
Bonner County	18,155	1,697	9.3	16,458
Boundary County	4,500	263	5.9	4,237
Kootenai County	58,751	5,083	8.7	53,668
Shoshone County	6,790	750	11.0	6,039
Magic Valley LMA	49,235	1,556	3.2	47,679
Gooding County	6,882	216	3.1	6,666
Jerome County	9,228	295	3.2	8,933
Twin Falls County	33,125	1,045	3.2	32,080
Adams County	1,749	239	13.7	1,510
Bear Lake County	2,741	136	4.9	2,606
Blaine County	12,458	469	3.8	11,990
Boise County	2,862	171	6.0	2,691
Camas County	357	11	3.0	346
Caribou County	3,296	221	6.7	3,075
Clark County	605	26	4.2	579
Clearwater County	3,759	521	13.9	3,238
Custer County	2,048	129	6.3	1,919
Elmore County	10,001	714	7.1	9,287
Franklin County	5,124	221	4.3	4,904
Fremont County	4,921	294	6.0	4,627
Gem County	6,233	524	8.4	5,709
Latah County	16,708	615	3.7	16,093
Lemhi County	3,665	206	5.6	3,459
Lincoln County	1,938	72	3.7	1,867
Madison County	12,821	234	1.8	12,587
Oneida County	1,712	62	3.6	1,650
Owyhee County	4,922	265	5.4	4,657
Payette County	9,574	886	9.3	8,687
Power County	3,450	255	7.4	3,195
Teton County	3,729	137	3.7	3,592
Valley County	3,972	349	8.8	3,623
Washington County	4,302	393	9.1	3,909
State of Idaho	690,126	36,876	5.3	653,250
Idaho Cities				
Boise	115,379	4,861	4.2	110,518
Coeur d'Alene	20,750	1,397	6.7	19,353
Idaho Falls	30,029	966	3.2	29,063
Lewiston	19,855	622	3.1	19,233
Nampa	21,612	1,608	7.4	20,005
Pocatello	28,596	1,617	5.7	26,978
Twin Falls	17,352	569	3.3	16,783

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

Construction employment experienced a slight increase in August 2002 from July but is down by 3,900 jobs from August 2001. The bulk of the job losses—64 percent—occurred in the *Special Trade Contractors* industry. Because employees in these construction specialties work on all types of building projects, this decline is indicative of the widespread slowdown in construction activity. Although interest rates remain conducive for construction financing, other factors suggest a significant increase in *Construction* employment is unlikely to happen soon. These factors include: an existing, healthy inventory of vacant housing units, retail/office sites, and plant facilities; moratoriums on public building projects; and business caution in expanding existing facilities.

Manufacturing added 300 jobs in August 2002, but more importantly, some of the larger *Manufacturing* industries did not lose jobs from July to August. *Lumber & Wood Products*, the two primary electronics industries, and *Food Processing* either added a few jobs or remained at the July 2002 level. Compared to August 2001, these industries have lost a considerable number of jobs during the year. More job losses are expected as several announced major layoffs or plant closings in these industries are scheduled to happen before year's end. Notable among these are the closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Heyburn and the Jabil electronics assembly plant in Meridian. Both of these operations are closing with an eventual loss of between 500 and 600 jobs each.

The *Service-Producing Industries* provided 400 fewer jobs in August than in July, but the August 2002 job count was 500 more than in August 2001. Most of the monthly changes occurred in *Trade* and *Government*. From August 2002, changes occurred in almost all the industries published in this newsletter.

There are several monthly changes worth noting. The increase of 400 jobs in *General Merchandise Stores* is due to businesses staffing up for the opening of new stores such as Wal-Mart and Fred Meyer, along with back-to-school shopping. The 400 job increase in *Eating & Drinking Places* is more likely due to local, summertime activities rather than a significant rebound in tourism and business travel because the other major tourism component, *Hotels & Other Lodging Places*, did not add jobs month-over-month. Both industries remain below the August 2001 job count. Also worth noting is

something that did not happen—there was no monthly change in *Health Services*. The year-over-year increases in these industries have been slowing down. This slowing trend might be reversed in the future as several hospitals have announced major expansions of existing facilities and/or the building of new satellite medical units.

Government has recently become somewhat of a volatile employment sector. All levels of government are confronting revenue shortfalls, rising costs, and limited potential for increasing revenues through increased taxes and fees. Governments must react by cutting costs and this usually means either reducing services, reducing staff, or deferring capital expenses. Most often, governments do a combination of all three cost-cutting strategies. *Local Government Education*, such as public schools, also must contend with ever-changing demographics, such as the size of each specific age group, residential patterns, and special needs of some students. All of these factors lead to non-seasonal ups and downs in *Government* jobs.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Aug 2002*	July 2002	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	568,300	568,300	576,300	0.0	-1.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	111,100	110,700	119,600	0.4	-7.1
Mining	1,900	1,800	2,100	5.6	-9.5
Metal Mining	500	500	800	0.0	-37.5
Construction	37,400	37,400	41,300	0.0	-9.4
Manufacturing	71,800	71,500	76,200	0.4	-5.8
Durable Goods	43,700	43,600	46,900	0.2	-6.8
Lumber & Wood Products	11,100	11,000	12,100	0.9	-8.3
Logging	2,100	2,100	2,600	0.0	-19.2
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,100	4,100	4,400	0.0	-6.8
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,800	3,700	3,900	2.7	-2.6
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	1,700	1,600	1,600	6.3	6.3
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	2,900	2,900	3,100	0.0	-6.5
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	9,300	9,300	10,100	0.0	-7.9
Transportation Equipment	13,100	13,100	14,200	0.0	-7.7
Other Durable GoodsM	2,100	2,200	2,300	-4.5	-8.7
Nondurable Goods	28,100	27,900	29,300	0.7	-4.1
Food Processing	17,100	16,900	17,600	1.2	-2.8
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,500	9,300	9,900	2.2	-4.0
Paper Products	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	4,900	4,900	5,100	0.0	-3.9
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,400	0.0	-16.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	457,200	457,600	456,700	-0.1	0.1
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,500	27,400	28,300	0.4	-2.8
Transportation	17,000	16,900	17,800	0.6	-4.5
Railroad	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,100	10,100	10,300	0.0	-1.9
Communications	6,400	6,400	6,400	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,100	4,100	4,100	0.0	0.0
Trade	142,100	141,600	142,800	0.4	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	31,400	31,600	31,400	-0.6	0.0
Durable Goods	14,800	14,800	14,900	0.0	-0.7
Nondurable Goods	16,600	16,800	16,500	-1.2	0.6
Retail Trade	110,700	110,000	111,400	0.6	-0.6
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	7,200	7,300	6,900	-1.4	4.3
General Merchandise Stores	14,300	13,900	13,600	2.9	5.1
Food Stores	18,700	18,800	19,100	-0.5	-2.1
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,300	12,300	12,600	0.0	-2.4
Eating & Drinking Places	39,300	38,900	39,500	1.0	-0.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	24,900	24,900	24,800	0.0	0.4
Banking	7,400	7,500	7,400	-1.3	0.0
Services	155,600	155,500	156,600	0.1	-0.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8,300	8,300	9,300	0.0	-10.8
Personal Services	4,400	4,400	4,300	0.0	2.3
Business Services	29,500	29,400	32,000	0.3	-7.8
Amusement and Recreation Services	8,100	8,100	8,500	0.0	-4.7
Health Services	40,700	40,700	38,700	0.0	5.2
Hospitals	14,000	14,000	13,100	0.0	6.9
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	20,100	20,200	19,100	-0.5	5.2
Government	107,100	108,200	104,200	-1.0	2.8
Federal Government	15,100	15,100	14,300	0.0	5.6
State & Local Government	92,000	93,100	89,900	-1.2	2.3
State Government	26,300	26,500	27,100	-0.8	-3.0
Education	10,900	11,100	11,200	-1.8	-2.7
Administration	15,400	15,400	15,900	0.0	-3.1
Local Government	65,700	66,600	62,800	-1.4	4.6
Education	32,800	33,700	31,800	-2.7	3.1
Administration	32,900	32,900	31,000	0.0	6.1

* Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From					
	Aug 2002	July 2002	Aug 2001	Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾									
Seasonally Adjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	690,100	689,400	686,800	0.1	0.5				
Unemployment	36,900	37,000	33,800	-0.3	9.2				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	5.4	4.9						
Total Employment	653,200	652,400	653,000	0.1	0.0				
Unadjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	699,400	700,400	696,000	-0.1	0.5				
Unemployment	33,300	33,100	30,400	0.6	9.5				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.7	4.4						
Total Employment	666,100	667,300	665,600	-0.2	0.1				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.7	5.9	4.9						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	176.6	176.1	173.8	0.3	1.6				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	180.7	180.1	177.5	0.3	1.8				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	41,690	42,930	40,030	-2.9	4.1				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	670	690	670	-2.9	0.0				
Hired Workers	32,010	33,230	30,350	-3.7	5.5				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
Claims Activities									
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	9,057	12,056	9,057	-24.9	0.0				
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	70,639	93,363	52,415	-24.3	34.8				
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾									
Weeks Compensated	58,958	77,599	42,134	-24.0	39.9				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$12,589,314	\$16,746,098	\$8,669,856	-24.8	45.2				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$213.53	\$215.80	\$205.77	-1.1	3.8				
Covered Employers	40,306	40,097	40,235	0.5	0.2				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$207,152,367	\$203,232,909	\$130,258,272	1.9	59.0				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 2002	July 2002	Aug 2001	Aug 2002	July 2002	Aug 2001	Aug 2002	July 2002	Aug 2001
Mining	\$709.60	\$680.26	\$627.12	41.4	40.3	40.2	\$17.14	\$16.88	\$15.60
Construction	\$718.36	\$664.88	\$682.40	40.7	39.6	40.0	\$17.65	\$16.79	\$17.06
Total Manufacturing	\$616.13	\$613.63	\$583.31	37.5	37.6	38.1	\$16.43	\$16.32	\$15.31
Lumber & Wood Products	\$628.84	\$593.82	\$603.58	39.8	37.3	40.7	\$15.80	\$15.92	\$14.83
Food & Kindred Products	\$394.02	\$447.49	\$447.29	33.0	36.8	38.1	\$11.94	\$12.16	\$11.74
Communications	\$838.35	\$863.23	\$719.43	45.0	44.2	40.6	\$18.63	\$19.53	\$17.72
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$707.81	\$691.42	\$773.72	37.0	36.2	38.9	\$19.13	\$19.10	\$19.89
Trade	\$323.35	\$323.11	\$327.97	29.0	29.4	30.2	\$11.15	\$10.99	\$10.86
Wholesale Trade	\$507.65	\$490.31	\$512.64	32.9	33.4	35.6	\$15.43	\$14.68	\$14.40
Retail Trade	\$277.91	\$279.32	\$279.94	28.1	28.3	28.8	\$9.89	\$9.87	\$9.72
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage									



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate bumped up to 8.9 percent in August, following layoffs by manufacturers, governmental entities, and service businesses. August's rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point above July's rate. In August 2001, prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks that intensified the U.S. recession, the Panhandle's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent. The unemployment rate rose during the 12-month period, even though total employment increased slightly—0.5 percent. As Panhandle Table 1 shows, 410 more Panhandle residents were employed in August 2002 than one year earlier. Unfortunately, the number of people in the labor force grew much more than the number of employed residents. From August 2001 to August 2002, the Panhandle added 1,670 people to its labor force as people continued to move into the area and as teenagers entered the labor market. That increased the number of unemployed people by 1,260 (1,670 minus 410), pushing up the unemployment rate.

The Panhandle's traumatized *Goods-Producing Industries* managed to add a few jobs between July and August, mostly because of normal seasonal increases in *Construction* and logging. As loggers geared up for the busiest time of the year, *Lumber & Wood Products* added 130 jobs between July and August. However, 100 fewer loggers worked in August 2002 than in the previous August, because of the negative economic outlook for the lumber industry. Lumber mills and other wood products manufacturers trimmed 180 jobs between August 2001 and August 2002. Late summer and early fall, normally the busiest time of the year for construction crews, resulted in a gain of 50 jobs between July and August 2002. Despite the month-over-month increase, *Construction* employment in August 2002 was 7.1 percent below its level in the previous August. During the last two years, commercial construction has declined significantly throughout the Panhandle, and residential construction has fallen

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Aug 2002*	July 2001	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,670	92,220	91,000	0.5	1.8
Unemployed	8,230	7,910	6,970	4.0	18.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.9	8.6	7.7		
Total Employment	84,440	84,310	84,030	0.2	0.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	94,220	93,570	92,740	0.7	1.6
Unemployed	6,170	6,190	5,140	-0.3	20.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.5	6.6	5.5		
Total Employment	88,050	87,380	87,600	0.8	0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	70,840	70,240	70,600	0.9	0.3
Goods-Producing Industries	14,040	13,870	14,950	1.2	-6.1
Mining	550	550	720	0.0	-23.6
Construction	4,830	4,780	5,200	1.0	-7.1
Manufacturing	8,660	8,540	9,030	1.4	-4.1
Lumber & Wood Products	4,160	4,030	4,440	3.2	-6.3
All Other Manufacturing	4,500	4,510	4,590	-0.2	-2.0
Service-Producing Industries	56,800	56,370	55,650	0.8	2.1
Transportation	1,560	1,530	1,650	2.0	-5.5
Communication & Utilities	1,100	1,090	1,090	0.9	0.9
Wholesale Trade	2,130	2,120	2,170	0.5	-1.8
Retail Trade	15,870	15,750	15,390	0.8	3.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,840	2,830	2,710	0.4	4.8
Service & Miscellaneous	19,840	19,400	19,310	2.3	2.7
Government Administration	9,400	9,500	9,290	-1.1	1.2
Government Education	4,060	4,150	4,040	-2.2	0.5

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

sharply in rural communities. *Mining* employment, which had fallen from 1,050 jobs three years ago, remained constant at 550 jobs between July and August.

Job gains in *Service-Producing Industries* offset the job losses in *Goods-Producing Industries* between August 2001 and August 2002. *Retail Trade* showed normal growth between July and August. Although employment at most retail operations did not grow during the 12-month period, the opening of the Wal-Mart in Post Falls and the move of Oxyfresh from Spokane to Coeur d'Alene created enough new jobs to add 480 jobs in *Retail Trade*. A moderately good summer tourist season helped increase *Services* employment between July and August. However, tourism employment remained about 5 percent below its level in August 2001 because of the decrease in business travel and conventions caused by the U.S. recession and the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Center Partners call center in Post Falls hired 100 more workers between July and August, bringing total Center Partners employment in Kootenai County to 1,300 jobs. That contributed to the 440 jobs added by *Services* between July and August. Most of the other *Service* jobs added were the result of the normal seasonal hiring by the tourism in-

dustry. *Government Administration* cut 100 jobs between July and August, as budget shortfalls took a toll on state agencies and local governments. The July-to-August decrease in *Government Education* was a normal seasonal decrease. Falling enrollments in a few rural communities and tighter school budgets resulted in virtually no growth in *Government Education* jobs between August 2001 and August 2002.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonner County

- To keep up with rapid sales growth, Unicep Packaging recently added 6,000-square feet to its building at 1702 Industrial Drive in Sandpoint. Founded in 1991 by dentist John Snedden, Unicep makes an applicator that gives one dose of medicine and then can be thrown away. Besides dispensing medicine, the disposable applicators also are used to provide liquids and gels containing vitamins, adhesives, lubricants, and cosmetics. The MicroDose applicators often are used when getting just the right amount is important or when a product has a short shelf life once it is opened. Unicep expects to double production this year, and to double it every year for the next few years. The 6,000-square-foot addition provides room for more mixing and filling equipment. A year ago, Unicep added 20,000-square feet to its warehouse and production area. Two years ago, Unicep employed about a dozen people. Today, it employs 53 people.

Boundary County

- On September 25, the City of Bonners Ferry and the Kootenai Tribe broke ground on a \$600,000 pedestrian underpass beneath U.S. Highway 95 that will link downtown Bonners Ferry with the Kootenai River Inn & Casino. A \$500,000 Idaho Transportation Department grant, along with \$106,000 in matching funds provided by the city and the tribe, funds the underpass construction. The tunnel, which will be completed next summer, will make it easier to cross from the tribe's inn and casino to downtown Bonners Ferry. This will help draw the hundreds of people that visit the inn and casino to downtown.
- To make downtown more attractive to visitors, the city hopes to make \$230,000 in improvements to downtown, including new sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping. Included in the master plan for downtown is Riverwalk, a path along the Kootenai River.
- The entrance to downtown currently is dominated by a large parking lot. The city would like to convert the lot into an international gateway and visitor's center. Mayor Darrel Kerby envisions that the state's port of entry at Three-Mile Junction would continue to handle commercial trucks, while the downtown port of entry would cater to tourists with restrooms, maps, and visitor's information.

Kootenai County

- A San Diego real estate company plans to build a 225,000-square-foot commercial center and a 14-screen movie theater at the 70-acre Riverstone development along Northwest Boulevard in Coeur d'Alene. The first floor of the commercial center will contain retail shops and restaurants, while the second and third floors will

contain condominium units. Next to the commercial center will be a pond that will become an ice rink in the winter. The \$40 million development, which will stretch to the Spokane River, is slated for completion in May 2004. It could create 300 jobs.

- The Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the news that the USA Ironman Triathlon will be held in Coeur d'Alene every year for the next five years. The first Ironman triathlon will open June 29, 2003, in downtown Coeur d'Alene. The Ironman is a particularly rigorous event involving a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride, and a 26.2-mile run. Coeur d'Alene will host up to 1,700 competitors, 3,000 volunteers, and 30,000 spectators. Competitors will swim in Lake Coeur d'Alene and bike and run along paths emanating from the city park next to the lake. The chamber estimates the economic impact of the Ironman triathlon at \$6 million per year.
- Beehive Homes is doubling the number of its assisted living units in Coeur d'Alene. It is building four 6,000-square-foot houses and a fifth building that will house a therapy pool and a large recreation room, at 2100 East Sherman Avenue. The first two houses will open in January 2003, and the other new buildings will open in the spring of 2003. Each of the four houses will contain 15 bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, and dining room. Residents also will enjoy a fishing pond, a putting green, and an enclosed courtyard. Beehive currently employs 30 people at its six-year-old assisted living center at 624 North 21st in Coeur d'Alene. When the new buildings open, Beehive will hire 30 more people.
- The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), which plays a major role in the economy of southeastern Idaho, recently opened a technology transfer office in Post Falls. Technology transfer is the process of taking new technologies developed by the 2,000 researchers at INEEL in the Idaho Falls area, finding commercial applications for them, and then spinning them off to start up new companies. INEEL has started four companies in southeastern Idaho during the last year. Now, it will expand its technology transfer efforts into North Idaho. INEEL rents 430-square feet at the University of Idaho Research Park, where it employs two people. Nine other tenants also occupy the first building at the research park.
- Two restaurant chains plan to open in former restaurant buildings in Post Falls this autumn. Old European restaurant will open in the former Applebee's space at 1760 Schneidmiller in October. Its 20 employees will serve breakfasts and lunches featuring Scandinavian, Dutch, and other European cuisine. Moon's Mongolian Grill will open in the former location of Breeze's at Seltice Way and Greensferry Road. The restaurant, which will cook food in front of customers and provide an all-you-can-eat buffet, will employ about 22 people.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in August to 4.5 percent from July's rate of 4.6 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In August 2001, the rate was 3.8 percent. Even though the unemployment rate dropped slightly, total employment in August 2002 decreased by 320 from July. Year-over-year employment increased by 140 people. The reason for the month-over-month decrease in the rate was that unemployment decreased by 60 from July. In spite of that monthly decrease, unemployment has increased by 260 year-over-year.

In August, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 320 from July 2002, although the number of jobs remained the same as August 2001. The job decrease from July occurred in almost all industries with only small increases in *Transportation, Wholesale Trade* and *Services* jobs. Large job decreases were recorded in *Construction* and *Manufacturing*. Both industrial and residential construction jobs decreased as projects were completed. Construction jobs can be seasonal with slowdowns starting in September and October. In spite of these early decreases, several large projects will start in September such as the Nez Perce Tribe Clearwater Casino project near Lewiston. *Manufacturing* also posted a decrease in jobs because of seasonal cutbacks after the pea harvest was completed.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Unemployment Insurance & Wages

Stabilizing the Economy: Besides helping unemployed individuals and families transition from one job to another, unemployment insurance (UI) acts as an automatic economic stabilizer. In a recession, UI benefits offset some of the effects of job losses on a community's spending power. UI benefits assist individuals and their families in continuing to meet their needs and pay

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Aug 2002*	July 2002	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,550	35,930	35,150	-1.1	1.1
Unemployment	1,600	1,660	1,340	-3.6	19.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.6	3.8		
Total Employment	33,950	34,270	33,810	-0.9	0.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,310	35,780	34,940	-1.3	1.1
Unemployment	1,350	1,500	1,130	-10.0	19.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.2	3.2		
Total Employment	33,960	34,280	33,810	-0.9	0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,920	26,240	25,920	-1.2	0.0
Goods-Producing Industries	5,330	5,630	5,450	-5.3	-2.2
Mining & Construction	1,460	1,570	1,570	-7.0	-7.0
Manufacturing	3,870	4,060	3,880	-4.7	-0.3
Food Processing	110	280	120	-60.7	-8.3
Lumber & Wood Products	720	730	730	-1.4	-1.4
Paper Products	1,700	1,700	1,720	0.0	-1.2
All Other Manufacturing	1,340	1,350	1,310	-0.7	2.3
Service-Producing Industries	20,590	20,610	20,470	-0.1	0.6
Transportation	1,360	1,350	1,380	0.7	-1.4
Communications & Utilities	270	270	280	0.0	-3.6
Wholesale Trade	990	960	980	3.1	1.0
Retail Trade	4,860	4,870	4,980	-0.2	-2.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,720	1,730	1,410	-0.6	22.0
Services	6,860	6,780	6,680	1.2	2.7
Government Administration	2,750	2,810	2,790	-2.1	-1.4
Government Education	1,780	1,840	1,970	-3.3	-9.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

their bills. As a result, UI benefits also help maintain the spending power of the landlords, stores, banks, and other businesses that provide products and services to those individuals and families. UI benefits soften the blow to family finances that losing a job entails and reduces the effect that job losses can have on the economy of a community.

Retaining a Local Workforce: Unemployment Insurance promotes stability by making it possible for employers to retain workers during the off-season or a short downturn. Many seasonal industries would find it much more difficult to attract and retain employees if their workers could not rely on UI benefits to help support them through the off-season.

In North Central Idaho, \$12,566,761 was paid out in UI benefits for the state fiscal year 2002, up \$1,030,108 from 2001. For a breakdown of dollars paid and numbers of weeks paid in the region, see Seaport Table 2 on page 10.

Seaport Table 2: Amount of Unemployment Insurance Payments						
County	Number of Weeks Paid State Fiscal Year			Dollar Amount Paid State Fiscal Year		
	2002	2001	Change	2002	2001	Change
Clearwater	11,606	13,191	-1,585	\$2,749,029	\$3,151,141	-\$402,112
Idaho	12,074	11,535	539	\$2,675,680	\$2,423,122	\$252,558
Latah	10,595	8,722	1,873	\$2,477,910	\$2,000,105	\$477,805
Lewis	2,075	1,910	165	\$443,709	\$399,818	\$43,891
Nez Perce	19,340	17,224	2,116	\$4,220,433	\$3,562,467	\$657,966
Total North Central Idaho	55,690	52,582	3,108	12,566,761	11,536,653	\$1,030,108

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Idaho County & Lewis Counties:

- U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth is asking environmentalists and the timber industry to agree on areas where timber harvest should occur. While common ground may be rare ground, there appear to be a few places in the Nez Perce National Forest where the two often-disparate groups agree some sort of timber harvest should happen. Environmentalists point to the small Dixie fuels reduction project as one place they have not sought to stop the cutting of timber or brush. The project is aimed at reducing the risk of fire to the distant town of Dixie. Environmentalists also agree with Bill Mulligan of Three Rivers Timber Co. in Kamiah and Dick Willhite, resource manager of the Shearer lumber mill in Elk City, that the beetle-infested Red River drainage could be logged without harming the environment.
- Camas Prairie RailNet was given the authority in September to begin salvage work on the line from Spalding to Grangeville. The railroad abandoned the line in September 2000. Although a contract was signed with a salvage company in March 2001, safety, historical, public use, and environmental conditions imposed by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board had to be satisfied before the rails and ties could be pulled. In addition, changes were made to the original conditions which eliminated the need to complete an Endangered Species Act assessment and a National Historic Preservation Act assessment before salvaging the line. The changes also do away with consulting the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Nez Perce Tribe regarding development of a Track Salvage and Stream Restoration Work Plan. But a new condition was added requiring the railroad to abide by the terms of its negotiated agreement with the tribe regarding stream restoration affecting Lapwai Creek and its tributaries. The salvage does not include bridges.

Latah County

- Plans for the Palouse Discovery Science Center has taken a giant step forward with a donation of a building to house the center. Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. is giving a five-year lease on 11,000-square feet in a building it recently acquired in the Whitman County Industrial Park in Pullman, Washington. Since 1999, the center has operated without a building, instead bringing speakers to the region and displaying exhibits at fairs. Among the permanent exhibits being considered for the center are a greenhouse, a living trout stream, and a soda fountain lab. Although children are the target audience, the center will provide learning opportunities for people of all ages. The building contribution is valued at \$750,000 and is the largest charitable gift Schweitzer Engineering has ever made. The founders of the company, Ed and Mary Schweitzer, also contributed an additional \$50,000. Schweitzer Engineering makes relays that protect electrical transmission lines, transformers, and circuits by detecting problems and, if necessary, stopping the flow of current until the problems have been fixed. "The science center becomes a reality now," said Ed Schweitzer. "It starts to come alive."

Nez Perce County

- Idaho's Governor Dirk Kempthorne toured the newly renovated Lewiston Job Service One Stop Career Center in September. While he was at the Job Service office, managers of the new Safeway store in Lewiston were interviewing applicants for the store's opening this fall. The activity, Kempthorne said, underscores the importance of Job Service in keeping Idaho's economy strong. Job Service helps businesses with recruitment, and provides many other services. Safeway, which will employ 120 people, used the center as a location to conduct interviews. Later it will do training there, too. The positions pay from slightly above minimum wage to as much as \$16 an hour.

Continued on page 24



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The August 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.9 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the July 2002 rate of 4.8 percent, and up six-tenths of a percentage point from the August 2001 rate of 4.3 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from July to August by 1,100 individuals. An increase of 200 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,200 in July to 12,400 in August. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 900 individuals from July to August 2002; compared to 2001, there was a net increase of 400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the August 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: August 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,224	7,592	4.2	173,632
Adams	1,749	239	13.7	1,510
Boise	2,862	171	6.0	2,691
Canyon	70,165	4,771	6.8	65,393
Elmore	10,001	714	7.1	9,287
Gem	6,233	524	8.4	5,709
Owyhee	4,922	265	5.4	4,657
Payette	9,574	886	9.3	8,687
Valley	3,972	349	8.8	3,623
Washington	4,302	393	9.1	3,909
Statewide	690,126	36,876	5.3	653,250

About 300 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between July and August 2002, while there was a decrease of 1,000 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since August 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 100 jobs between

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	August 2002*	July 2002	August 2001	% Change Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,400	252,300	251,000	-0.4	0.2
Unemployment	12,400	12,200	10,700	1.6	15.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.8	4.3		
Total Employment	239,000	240,100	240,300	-0.5	-0.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,800	255,400	253,400	-0.6	0.2
Unemployment	11,500	11,800	9,900	-2.5	16.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.6	3.9		
Total Employment	242,300	243,600	243,500	-0.5	-0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	230,800	231,100	231,800	-0.1	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Construction & Mining	50,800	50,900	53,900	-0.2	-5.8
Manufacturing	16,100	16,200	17,300	-0.6	-6.9
Durable Goods	34,700	34,700	36,600	0.0	-5.2
Lumber & Wood Products	26,400	26,400	28,200	0.0	-6.4
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	3,100	3,100	3,200	0.0	-3.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	7,300	7,300	7,900	0.0	-7.6
Transportation Equipment	11,300	11,300	12,300	0.0	-8.1
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,800	1,700	0.0	5.9
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,900	0.0	-10.5
Food & Kindred Products	8,300	8,300	8,400	0.0	-1.2
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	5,500	5,600	5,600	-1.8	-1.8
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Other Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	900	800	900	12.5	0.0
Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities	180,000	180,200	177,900	-0.1	1.2
Transportation	12,300	12,400	12,200	-0.8	0.8
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	6,800	6,900	7,000	-1.4	-2.9
Trade	5,500	5,500	5,200	0.0	5.8
Wholesale Trade	57,200	56,900	56,900	0.5	0.5
Durable Goods	13,000	13,000	12,700	0.0	2.4
Nondurable Goods	7,900	8,000	7,800	-1.3	1.3
Retail Trade	5,100	5,000	4,900	2.0	4.1
General Merchandise Stores	44,200	43,900	44,200	0.7	0.0
Foods Stores	5,900	5,700	5,600	3.5	5.4
Eating & Drinking Places	7,400	7,500	7,700	-1.3	-3.9
Other Retail Trade	15,700	15,700	15,700	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	15,200	15,000	15,200	1.3	0.0
Services	11,800	11,800	11,700	0.0	0.9
Business Services	64,300	64,300	63,700	0.0	0.9
Health Services	13,800	13,700	15,300	0.7	-9.8
Hospitals	19,300	19,200	18,400	0.5	4.9
Eng. Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	9,200	9,200	8,500	0.0	8.2
Other Services	5,700	5,700	5,300	0.0	7.5
Government	25,500	25,700	24,700	-0.8	3.2
Federal Government	34,400	34,800	33,400	-1.1	3.0
State Government	5,500	5,500	5,200	0.0	5.8
Education	12,600	12,600	12,700	0.0	-0.8
Administration	3,600	3,600	3,500	0.0	2.9
Local Government	9,000	9,000	9,200	0.0	-2.2
Education	16,300	16,700	15,500	-2.4	5.2
Administration	10,000	10,400	9,500	-3.8	5.3
	6,300	6,300	6,000	0.0	5.0

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

July and August 2002 with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (100) and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and job gains occurring over the same time period in *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,100 jobs with job gains in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) outweighed by job losses in *Mining & Construction* (1,200), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (600), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Component Manufacturing* (1,000), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), and *Food & Kindred Products* (100) primarily *Canned, Cured & Frozen Foods* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 200 jobs between July and August 2002. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Food Stores* (100), *Other Services* (200), and *Local Government Education* (400) outpaced job increases in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Business Services* (100), and *Health Services* (100) to create the net decrease in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs. Most of the job losses occurred in *Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts close summer sessions for a break before the fall semester begins. From August 2001 to August 2002, there was an increase of 2,100 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (300), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200), *General Merchandise Stores* (300), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services* (900) primarily *Hospitals* (700), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (400), *Other Services* (800), *Federal Government* (300), *State Government Education* (100), *Local Government Education* (500), and *Local Government Administration* (300) outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (200), *Food Stores* (300), *Business Services* (1,500), and *State Government Administration* (200).

SPECIAL TOPIC

Southwest Idaho School Update

The start of fall marks the beginning of school for the Treasure Valley students as summer vacations come to an end. The enrollment in elementary and secondary schools throughout the Treasure Valley has increased over the past year by 2.5 percent, or 2,475 students, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 3. Ada County showed the largest increase with total enrollment increasing by 1,548 students with Canyon County districts following with a 974-student increase over the previous year. Over

the decade, total student enrollment throughout the Treasure Valley is up 29.6 percent or 23,221 individuals. The trend of increasing enrollment is happening not just in the Treasure Valley, but throughout the state and the nation, and especially in the West. The U.S. Department of Education recently reported that the number of students in public schools will increase dramatically in the next few years in parts of the South and much of the West, worsening already overcrowded classrooms, substandard school buildings, and teacher shortages. Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, California, and Arizona are expected to have the largest increases in the next decade.

Treasure Valley Table 3: Southwest Idaho School Enrollment					
	Enrollment			% Change	
	91-92	00-01	01-02	Decade 1991-2001	Year 2000-2001
Ada	41,694	53,597	55,145	32.3%	2.9%
Adams	617	522	512	-17.0%	-1.9%
Boise	740	1,062	1,097	48.2%	3.3%
Canyon	19,154	25,616	26,590	38.8%	3.8%
Elmore	4,353	5,141	5,166	18.7%	0.5%
Gem	2,461	3,018	2,980	21.1%	-1.3%
Owyhee	2,352	2,556	2,588	10.0%	1.3%
Payette	3,711	4,365	4,375	17.9%	0.2%
Valley	1,436	1,414	1,333	-7.2%	-5.7%
Washington	2,008	1,981	1,961	-2.3%	-1.0%
Total	78,526	99,272	101,747	29.6%	2.5%

Source: Idaho Department of Education

As the new school year started, the Meridian School District determined that more schools were needed. A bond was passed by 83 percent of voters in the district and over the next two years, Meridian will use the \$57.2 million to build three new elementary schools, a middle school, and an alternative high school in addition to making improvements to other facilities in the district.

Post-secondary Education in Treasure Valley. Boise State University, Albertson College of Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University, Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho were named among the best colleges in the nation, according to the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2003 college ranking.

The Boise State University West campus in Northeast Nampa held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of the first building on the BSU West Campus. The \$3.4 million Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter) is the first building on the BSU West Campus. The 38,000-square-foot center is based on a plan by BSU, Idaho Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to help local entrepreneurs develop products and businesses by working with BSU resources and faculty. The TECenter is expected to open in early 2003.

Boise State University set a record enrollment in 2001 with 17,161 students. The expanding engineering program, satellite campuses, and increased Internet classes

at all locations have been factors in the university's growth. Boise State enrolled 17,714 students in fall 2002, which is a 3 percent increase over last year's record enrollment. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Boise State has increased fall enrollment significantly from the previous year to set a new state record.

Boise State officials announced that the school will raise admission standards. The new, more selective admissions policy offers the university a way to reconcile increases in enrollment and decreases in funding. Boise State also opened its new \$12.5 million student recreation center on the Boise campus in September.

Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) posted a 23 percent increase in freshman enrollment this year. The university enrolled 1,152 undergraduates for the fall semester, and 290 of those are freshmen.

NNU recently opened two business programs geared toward adult professionals in Boise; the MBA program is a 15-month business master's program and the STEP program is an accelerated undergraduate business degree, which began this fall. The classes are held in the basement of the C.W. Moore Plaza in downtown Boise. NNU announced that it expects to serve more than 11,000 people through a variety of programs this year, which is a significant increase over the estimated 7,500 students served last year.

Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) was ranked the 20th most wired small college in America, according to Yahoo!, and 6th in the nation for "Best Academic Bang for your Buck," according to Best 345 Colleges. Besides balancing the college's budget by 2004 and working on increasing student retention, the college has several other projects planned. These include adding new academic classes and majors, hiring more people for a variety of positions on campus, planning a fund-raising campaign, and constructing new buildings in "The Village," the college's new apartment-style dorms designed to keep upperclassmen on campus.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Jabil Circuit, Inc. announced in mid-September that it would close its Meridian manufacturing plant by the end of this year. More than 500 employees will be laid off as a result of the closure. Company officials cited performance issues as reason for the closure; another factor is that a majority of customers of Jabil's Meridian facility are in the weakening telecom market.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center (St. Al's) released an expansion plan in mid-September, "Vision 2010: The Future of Healing." The \$208 million expansion plan includes a new, seven-story center at its current site on Curtis Road in Boise, which will include operating rooms that will use ro-

botics and new patient rooms. Also included will be outpatient centers in Eagle and Meridian. Ground-breaking for the \$11 million Saint Alphonsus Meridian Health Plaza outpatient care center took place in late September. It is scheduled to open in April and will include two operating rooms for outpatient surgery, an urgent care clinic, offices for family and internal medicine doctors, and radiology services including X-rays, mammography, and ultrasound.

- Horizon Air announced that it will offer a daily flight from Boise to Hailey for ski-season service. The once-daily round trip will start December 15, 2002, and continue through March 30, 2003. The new flight will increase air connections to the Wood River Valley, particularly from cities in Washington, Oregon, California, and the Midwest. The flight will depart Boise at 1:55 pm and arrive at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey at 2:35 pm. The return flight leaves at 4:00 pm and arrives in Boise at 4:40 pm. Horizon will operate a 37-seat Q200 aircraft on the route.
- Albertsons, Inc. opened its Westpark Technology Center in September. The multi-million dollar center houses the company's computer operations. About 70 people are employed at the center, located at 700 North Ancestor Place in Boise.
- The former Sav-on Drug store on Bogus Basin Road will be home to Crane Creek Market, which is scheduled to open in December. The new market will occupy two-thirds of the existing 26,000-square-foot building, and will feature specialty wine, beer, cheese, fresh produce, and meat departments. Bogus Basin Recreation Association Inc. (which will move from its current location across the street) and two additional retail outlets will occupy the remaining space in the building. The owners of the building have announced plans to build two additional buildings on the site, including a restaurant with outside seating.
- Consolidated Freightways (CF) announced in early September that it was going out of business. CF was one of the largest trucking companies in the nation, and nearly 15,500 workers worldwide are affected by the closure. Approximately 90 local jobs are affected by the announcement. The company stated that it did not have enough money to continue operations, causing the immediate shut down of operations.
- MicronPC announced in late August that it was awarded an \$800,000 contract with the Boise School District to provide service and support.
- Hampton Inn & Suites announced plans to build a new 101-room hotel near the Idaho Center in Nampa. The four-story hotel will be part of the Can-

yon Park development, and groundbreaking for the \$7.8 million hotel is scheduled for October. The hotel will be open in time for the July 2003 Snake River Stampede.

- Norco Inc., started construction of an \$8 million air-separation plant in Nampa in early summer 2002. The 10,000-square-foot facility will be located on Karcher Road east of the sugar factory, and is scheduled to open in November. About 3 full-time employees and 6 drivers will operate the plant.
- Construction started on the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in mid-September. The \$3.6 million building will include a museum, lecture hall, conference room, gift shop, classrooms, computer lab, a teaching kitchen, and a bilingual library. The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho will host cultural events and offer extensive job training and economic development programs.
- Other business news in the Boise City MSA includes: the American Zoo and Aquarium Association accredited Zoo Boise, which will allow the zoo more opportunities to acquire new animals; Bolo's closed its downtown Boise eatery in early September; Shabahang Persian Carpets plans to close its downtown Boise location this fall; Rocky Mountain Bagel Bakery closed all three Treasure Valley locations; the Red Feather Lounge will open in downtown Boise in October; Krispy Kreme will open its first Idaho store at the corner of Fairview and Eagle in late January; Four Seasons Travel merged with Harmon Travel in late September; Zions Bank expanded its downtown Boise office; construction began on Life's Doors Hospice and Life's Doors Home Care Solutions in Boise; DeMarcos announced plans to open a second Boise store in the Boise Towne Square Mall in mid-November; Washington Trust Bank announced plans to build a new branch at the corner of Glenwood and State in Boise; Mountain West Bank opened a new branch in Meridian; and Working Solutions and Workforce Essentials held its grand opening ceremony in Nampa.

Adams County

- The New Meadows' Shavers was sold to Leonard and Sharon Yancey during summer 2002, and the store was renamed the Meadows Valley Market. Most employees are still working at the store and kept the same benefits that they had at Shavers.

Gem County

- Ground was broken in late August for the new Gem County Jail. Construction is scheduled to be completed by summer 2003.

- A King's discount department store will be built at the intersection of Highways 19 and 52 in Emmett. The 14,000-square-foot building will be completed in 2003; the business is scheduled to open in May and will employ 14 full- and part-time people.
- Swing Scene in Emmett held a grand reopening with new owners Jeff and Sonja Radford and Dan and Joni Nevers. The restaurant now serves breakfast through dinner and offers catering as well. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Payette County

- Ground was broken for a new industrial park in New Plymouth in early September. Groundbreaking was held on the site located north of the railroad tracks off Ada Road where Governor Dirk Kempthorne presented the city with a check for \$245,000. The money, a grant provided by the Rural Development Initiative Program from the Idaho Department of Commerce, will be used for extending city services, including water and sewer, to the industrial park. One business, Noyes Apiaries Inc., will construct a honey-packing plant on the site that will create 28 jobs within two years of completion of the industrial park. The plant is scheduled to open in April 2003.
- Family 1st Chiropractic held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late August. Tomas McFie and his staff are located at 211 North Whitley in Fruitland.

Valley County

- Construction began on the WestRock resort development in Valley County in mid-August. Road and infrastructure work has started, along with work associated with the project's permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to alter wetlands, under the direction of Boise-based Washington Group International (WGI). WestRock also received a recommendation for approval from the Idaho Department of Water Resources to use 5.56 million gallons of groundwater per day from 11 wells. Persons opposed to the water rights have until September 30 to file for reconsideration; if there is no opposition, the water right will be approved.
- Whitetail Lodge in McCall announced the closure of its operation for the winter. It will reopen in Spring 2003. Twenty full-time and 20 part-time employees were affected by the closure.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Magic Valley Labor Market Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2002 was 3.2 percent. This is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than August 2001, but five-tenths of a percentage point lower than July 2002. *Civilian Labor Force* was down 1.6 percent year-over-year, while the number of unemployed was slightly higher than a year ago. However, the 3.2 percent unemployment rate was one of the lowest of any Labor Market Area or Metropolitan Statistical Area in Idaho.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs dropped by 1.5 percent from August 2001 levels. This marks the third straight month of slowing or declining job growth. As expected, sectors dependent upon state funding such as *Government-Education* and *Government-Administration* showed declines of 2.6 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. Also showing declines were *Retail Trade*, *Finance*, *Insurance*, and *Real Estate*, and *Services* with declines of 1.2, 4.3, and 3.9 percent, respectively. The sectors that showed significant gains were *Manufacturing-Durable Goods* and *Wholesale Trade* with gains of 10.6 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

The mixed signals in sector analysis indicate there has been some slowing in the local economy with regard to job creation. However, the low unemployment rate indicates that in relative terms the Magic Valley economy is the most robust in the state. Losses in education jobs are a concern because they are typically high-paying jobs with benefits, however, the expanded hiring at Dell Computers and the new hiring at WOW Logistics indicates that new, good-paying jobs with benefits are being created. Retailers, understandably, are showing some caution in hiring and are not creating a lot of new jobs, however, the existing jobs are very stable in this sector. *Food Processing* in western Magic Valley continues to be stable and strong. Consumer confidence remains high. Agricultural commodity prices remain good, especially in potatoes, and the 2002 crop is one of the best on record. There are serious water concerns for 2003. Reservoir carryover is the lowest in many years and an above-normal water year is

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	Aug 2002*	July 2002	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	49,240	49,260	50,030	0.0	-1.6
Unemployment	1,560	1,830	1,530	-14.8	2.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.7	3.1		
Total Employment	47,680	47,430	48,500	0.5	-1.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,830	50,560	51,590	0.5	-1.5
Unemployment	1,730	1,740	1,670	-0.6	3.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.4	3.2		
Total Employment	49,100	48,820	49,920	0.6	-1.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	39,420	39,100	40,030	0.8	-1.5
Goods-Producing Industries	7,680	7,350	7,640	4.5	0.5
Mining & Construction	2,080	2,080	2,090	0.0	-0.5
Manufacturing	5,600	5,270	5,550	6.3	0.9
Durable Goods	940	960	850	-2.1	10.6
Nondurable Goods	4,660	4,310	4,700	8.1	-0.9
Food Processing	3,660	3,330	3,710	9.9	-1.3
All Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	980	990	2.0	1.0
Service-Producing Industries	31,740	31,750	32,390	0.0	-2.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,650	2,610	2,660	1.5	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	2,310	2,440	2,270	-5.3	1.8
Retail Trade	8,200	8,150	8,300	0.6	-1.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,320	1,310	1,380	0.8	-4.3
Services	10,420	10,450	10,840	-0.3	-3.9
Government Administration	3,860	3,820	3,880	1.0	-0.5
Government Education	2,980	2,970	3,060	0.3	-2.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

needed to replenish water levels. In summary, despite not being immune to outside economic influences, the Magic Valley continues to be a leading performer in the state, and while job growth will continue to cool, the low unemployment rate should continue throughout 2002.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Dell Computers announced that it would be expanding its workforce by approximately 150 workers by December 2002. This would increase its workforce to about 750 workers from its present level. Dell will also start a pilot program with 20 part-time workers to cover call-load peaks. This is the first time that Dell has employed any part-time workers, and the company will assess the pilot program's effectiveness before making the decision to continue or expand the program. In January and February 2002, Dell started with a workforce of 100 and quickly expanded to 200 workers. Dell has continued to recruit workers and expand as quickly as possible. Dell now has over 600 workers and should reach 750 by the end of 2002.

The rapid increase in Dell market share has created the pressing need for more technical support. Dell has been extremely pleased by the abilities and work ethic of the Magic Valley workers and this has prompted the quick expansion. In addition to technical support personnel, Dell also has hired about 100 workers to function as Consumer Advocacy Representatives to handle such things as bill inquiries, etc.

- A new sporting goods store, the Avid Sportsman, opened September 9 in Buhl. It is located at 650 South Broadway. Bradley Bremers and his wife Amber, along with Brad's father David Bremers, are partners in the venture. The new store features hunting and fishing equipment, clothing, and accessories. There is also a gas, foods, and smoke shop. The store is currently open seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. A grand opening is planned for sometime in October.
- The United Furniture Warehouses announced that both of their locations will be going out of business. The businesses are located on Kimberly Road in Twin Falls and in the Snake River Mall in Burley. The closure will affect 5 to 10 employees at each location.
- FedEx Ground announced the addition of a small Twin Falls terminal specializing in residential deliveries. This is part of the company's final phase of the FedEx Home Delivery network expansion nationwide. With the opening of terminals in Twin Falls, Pocatello, and 47 other U.S. cities, FedEx Ground now boasts dedicated home delivery to virtually the entire U.S. population. A portion of the existing FedEx Ground facility at 217 West U.S. Highway 30 now is dedicated to the home-delivery service, with coverage north to Ketchum, south to Twin Falls' south border, east to Burley, and west to Bliss. The new home delivery service added one service manager employee and one driver on contract to bring the total workers at the facility to 15. The company hopes to add more jobs in the near future.
- The City of Twin Falls is remodeling a building across the street from city hall for a new city council chamber at 305 Third Ave. East. The 6,200-square-foot building is being remodeled to increase the size of the city council chamber. Over time, the building will become home to city offices and a conference room. The initial project will cost \$256,650.

Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties

- Horizon Air announced that it will offer a daily flight from Boise to Hailey for ski-season service. The once daily round trip will start December 15, 2002 and continue through March 30, 2003. The new flight will increase air connections to the Wood River Valley, particularly from cities in Washington, Oregon, California, and the Midwest. The flight will depart Boise at 1:55 pm and arrive at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey at 2:35 pm. The return flight leaves at 4:00 pm and arrives in Boise at 4:40 pm. Horizon will operate a 37-seat Q200 aircraft on the route.
- The number of hotel rooms available for tourists in the northern Wood River Valley has decreased noticeably

in the last three years. Between 1999 and 2002, Ketchum has lost 111 hotel rooms and an undetermined number of condominiums, according to the Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber and Visitors Bureau. That loss will increase by 132 rooms when the recently sold Elkhorn resort closes this fall to make way for condominiums. When Elkhorn closes, the lost hotel rooms will constitute 26 percent of the north valley's hotel rooms. Recent hotel closures include the Christiana Motor Lodge, Heidelberg Inn, Ketchum Corral, and the Ski View Lodge. Hoteliers and Sun Valley marketing specialists contend that the closures are not due to decreased demand, but rather because lodging properties are becoming more valuable than the lodges themselves.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- The Mini-Cassia Development Commission sponsored a two-day dairy tour and presentation to study the feasibility of the Mini-Cassia area accommodating several new dairies and milk processing plants in the near future. The group toured the Midway Dairy near Raft River and the Whiteside Dairy between Minidoka and Acequia. Terry R. Smith, Ph.D., of Dairy Strategies, LLC in Madison, Wisconsin presented a report on the economic impact of new dairies and milk processing plants in Minidoka and Cassia Counties. The report said that 20 dairies with a cash investment of \$243 million would result in approximately 35 new jobs per dairy at an average wage of \$22,000 per year. The report stated that the dairy expansion would more than compensate for the projected job losses and economic impact of the Simplot closure and would eventually lead to long-term growth and economic strength in the area.
- The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Trans IV public bus service announced that a year-round bus route will be established from the Mini-Cassia area to Twin Falls beginning November 4. The purpose of the bus route will be to provide relatively low cost transportation to workers that have been displaced as a result of the Simplot closure and other people working in the Twin Falls area. The bus also will travel to the College of Southern Idaho where many of the displaced workers will be attending classes to retrain them for future employment. The good job market in the Twin Falls area and the recent announcement of additional hiring at Dell Computers has stimulated interest in the Mini-Cassia area for low-cost transportation. A confirmed schedule of when and where the bus service will stop has not been announced.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes all of Bannock County, had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.6 percent in August 2002, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1. This rate was down two-tenths of a percentage point from the July 2002 revised rate of 5.8 percent and up nine-tenths of a percentage point from the July 2001 rate of 4.7 percent.

Unemployment rates for six Southeast Idaho counties are shown in Southeast Idaho Table 2. Power and Caribou Counties continue to endure high unemployment rates because of their dependence on natural resource based industries and the loss of jobs at Astaris. Bingham County replaced Oneida County with the lowest unemployment rate of the seven Southeast Idaho counties. Bingham County's large agricultural and agricultural-related industry base provides an abundance of jobs to workers during the busy crop growing, harvesting, and processing season.

Southeast Idaho Table 2: Unemployment Rates for Southeast Idaho Counties (in percentages)

	Aug 2002	July 2002	Aug 2001
Bear Lake	4.9	4.6	5.5
Bingham	3.2	4.7	4.2
Caribou	6.7	7.3	5.4
Franklin	4.3	3.4	2.8
Oneida	3.6	3.7	3.2
Power	7.4	7.2	4.5

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs declined by 220 dropping from 31,670 in July 2002 to 31,450 in August 2002. The largest declines were in *Government Education* (-80) and *Retail Trade* (-70). Idaho State University employment usually increases slightly in August but statewide budget reductions likely contributed to fewer jobs at the university in August. The decrease in *Retail Trade* was due to a combination of slower consumer buying and businesses working their employees more hours, thereby hiring fewer part-

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Aug 2002*	July 2002	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	39,680	40,750	40,300	-2.6	-1.5
Unemployment	2,230	2,370	1,900	-5.9	17.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.8	4.7		
Total Employment	37,450	38,380	38,400	-2.4	-2.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	39,040	39,410	39,640	-0.9	-1.5
Unemployment	2,160	2,190	1,830	-1.4	18.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	5.6	4.6		
Total Employment	36,880	37,220	37,810	-0.9	-2.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	31,500	31,670	32,090	-0.5	-1.8
Goods-Producing Industries	4,490	4,530	4,590	-0.9	-2.2
Mining & Construction	1,830	1,850	1,920	-1.1	-4.7
Manufacturing	2,660	2,680	2,670	-0.7	-0.4
Service-Producing Industries	27,010	27,140	27,500	-0.5	-1.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,810	1,790	1,810	1.1	0.0
Wholesale Trade	1,330	1,330	1,410	0.0	-5.7
Retail Trade	6,500	6,570	6,720	-1.1	-3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,810	1,810	1,700	0.0	6.5
Services	8,360	8,350	8,410	0.1	-0.6
Government Administration	3,580	3,590	3,610	-0.3	-0.8
Government Education	3,620	3,700	3,840	-2.2	-5.7

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

time workers. The opening of several new retail businesses will increase the sector's job count in September and October 2002.

SPECIAL TOPIC

ISU Students Return to Pocatello

The impact of Idaho State University (ISU) students on the area is evident by simply driving around Pocatello. Students can be seen walking to and from classes, walking and driving to and from surrounding apartments and houses, eating at area restaurants, and shopping for school and living supplies.

ISU's enrollment this semester reached 13,352, just under its fall 2001 enrollment of 13,663. The drop in enrollment was in part-time students and occurred because classes filled leaving those part-time students unable to get into classes. Approximately 935 students, 7 percent of ISU's full-time students, are from outside Idaho and nearly 9,000 students are from outside Bannock County. Students rent apartments and houses, purchase school supplies, clothing, food, fuel, and recreation. But the impact of ISU students goes beyond what they buy in local businesses and the tuition they pay. Throughout their college careers, ISU students provide an educated, disciplined, and affordable workforce for local employers, they volunteer their services in the community, and they spark lively debate about

social, governmental, economic, and political issues that lead to improved policy and an improved community.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Several new stores opened in the Cobblestone Creek Shopping Center in Chubbuck: Pier 1 Imports, Only \$1 Superstore, and Village Crafts by Michael's. Opening of the new businesses, along with T.J. Maxx at the same location, added approximately 150 jobs in the area.
- Sonic Drive-In opened near the Fred Meyer Complex on Yellowstone Avenue in Pocatello. The drive-in offers carhop service and employs about 30 workers.
- Uncle Jim's restaurant opened in Pocatello. The family dining restaurant is located in the former J.B.'s on the corner of North Fifth and Seventh Avenues. The restaurant employs about 20 workers.
- Construction and development continues on the Tuscany Hills project which includes multiple and single family homes and business offices. Construction is currently underway on 200 single-family homes and townhouses. Developer Bill Isley has set aside a tract of land for future commercial development and hopes to build a grocery store and other businesses to support the new residential area.
- American MicroSystems Incorporated Semiconductor (AMIS) broke ground on its new 30,800-square-foot research facility in Pocatello. The new facility will be located on Alvin Ricken Drive, directly above the production facility on Buckskin Road.
- LA Weight Loss Center opened in Varsity Square in Pocatello. The company offers a combination of one-on-one counseling and meal plans to assist individuals to lose weight.
- Convergys Customer Support Center currently employs about 600 workers and will increase its Pocatello workforce by 250 workers. The center provides customer support and billing services for DirecTV. The expansion is because of increased business and recruitment for the additional workers is underway.
- Closure of Consolidated Freightways Corporation eliminated about eight jobs in the Pocatello area. Some of the affected workers were from Idaho Falls and had commuted to Pocatello since the Idaho Falls terminal closed over a year ago.

- Last April, J.R. Simplot Company announced it would close the ammonia plant at its Pocatello facility in August 2002 and offered 86 workers early retirement packages in an effort to avoid layoffs. By mid-August only 45 workers had accepted the offer. Simplot officials have not announced when those workers will begin their retirements or when further reductions in force will occur. Some workers will need to be retained to dismantle the ammonia processing facility.

Bingham County

- C-A-L Ranch opened its new store on North Meridian in Blackfoot. The 30,000-square-foot facility gives the business an additional 11,500-square feet of space over the old store and allows the business to expand its inventory. The store also hired additional workers.
- Clean Flicks has opened at 1053 West Bridge in Blackfoot. The business rents videos and DVDs that have been edited to remove sexual and violent scenes and offensive language. Clean Flicks is a franchise operating in 13 states.
- The Eastern Idaho State Fair was held in Blackfoot in September. Each year the fair brings about 200,000 people to Blackfoot and stimulates its economy. The fair hires about 400 temporary workers, mostly from the Blackfoot area, who earn around \$600 each. The fair spends approximately \$2 million on materials and supplies and most of that is spent in Bingham, Bannock, and Bonneville Counties. Hotels and restaurants in Blackfoot usually are full during the eight-day event.

Power County

- The rehabilitation center at Harms Memorial Hospital will move into a new facility adjacent to the hospital. The facility will enable the rehabilitation center to have more equipment and provide a higher level of privacy for its patients. Construction should be completed by the end of October.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in August was a six-tenths of a percentage point drop from July in the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) as seen in Northeast Table 1. The August rate reflected an increase of 470 people in the *Civilian Labor Force* with a decrease of 510 people in total unemployed. Increases in the *Civilian Labor Force* were noted in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties while decreases in total unemployed were most noticeable in Bingham and Bonneville Counties. Bingham County showed the largest monthly decrease in unemployment rates, from 4.7 percent to 3.2 percent, as the county started into a heavy grain harvest and prepared for potato harvest. The LMA experienced a drop of one-tenth of a percentage point in the unemployment rate year-over-year, with the *Civilian Labor Force* showing an increase of 1,440 people, and total unemployed showing a decrease of 90 people. The unemployment rate of Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased three-tenths of a percentage point over the month, but increased two-tenths of a percentage point from August 2001.

The unemployment rate in the other counties in Northeast Idaho showed very little change from July to August with Teton County showing the largest change at five-tenths of a percentage point increase. A year-over-year comparison showed little change. Teton County showed the largest unemployment rate increase at 1.4 percentage points, while Fremont County increased six-tenths of a percentage point. Teton County, which is dependent on tourism, has shown increases in unemployment compared to 2001 as a result of the national recession and the September 11 tragedy. Lemhi County showed a decrease of eight-tenths of a percentage point from August 2001 as growth in economic development and work towards the Lewis and Clark Commemoration, set for 2003, continue. Custer

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Aug 2002*	July 2002	Aug 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,720	83,250	82,280	0.6	1.8
Unemployment	2,640	3,150	2,730	-16.2	-3.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.8	3.3		
Total Employment	81,080	80,100	79,550	1.2	1.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,660	83,970	83,260	0.8	1.7
Unemployment	3,410	2,740	3,570	24.5	-4.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.3	4.3		
Total Employment	81,250	81,230	79,690	0.0	2.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	64,150	63,960	62,750	0.3	2.2
Goods-Producing Industries	10,660	10,460	10,190	1.9	4.6
Mining & Construction	5,540	5,380	5,030	3.0	10.1
Manufacturing	5,120	5,080	5,160	0.8	-0.8
Food Processing	2,280	2,310	2,670	-1.3	-14.6
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	600	590	460	1.7	30.4
All Other Manufacturing	2,240	2,180	2,030	2.8	10.3
Service-Producing Industries	53,490	53,500	52,560	0.0	1.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,310	2,300	2,420	0.4	-4.5
Wholesale Trade	5,010	5,120	5,290	-2.1	-5.3
Retail Trade	11,740	11,640	11,340	0.9	3.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,990	1,990	1,920	0.0	3.6
Services	22,440	22,080	21,620	1.6	3.8
Government Administration	5,680	5,610	5,710	1.2	-0.5
Government Education	4,320	4,760	4,260	-9.2	1.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

County currently has the largest unemployment rate in Northeast Idaho at 6.3 percent while Madison County holds the lowest, for the region and state, at 1.8 percent.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased very little over the month—90 jobs. The most notable increases were seen in *Construction*, 160 jobs; *Retail Trade (Eating and Drinking Establishments)*, 100 jobs; and *Services*, 360 jobs. *Services* saw the increases mostly from *Business Services* and *Nonprofit Organizations*. Decreases were seen in *Wholesale Trade* as layoffs for annual maintenance were seen in many of the fresh-packing warehouses, and in *Government Education* as normally expected in the summer when school is out of session.

Year-over-year comparisons showed an increase in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* of 1,400, with a gain of 470 in *Goods-Producing Industries* and a gain of 930 in *Service-Producing Industries*. *Construction* showed a gain of 510 jobs; *Building* and *Special Trades* showed the largest gains. *Services* showed a gain of 820, with *Business Services*, *Hotels & Other Lodging*, *Health Services* and *Social Services* showing the larger gains. An increase of 400 jobs was seen in *Retail Trade* as *Eating & Drinking Establishments* and *General Merchandise Stores*

showed large increases. The year-over-year comparison was not without decreases, as *Manufacturing (Food Processing)*; *Transportation, Communication & Utilities*; *Wholesale Trade*; and *Government Administration* showed losses.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Vehicle Sales 🚗

CARS—Reports from the Idaho Automobile Dealers Association show that new car sales for Northeast Idaho and Bingham County were down by 32 cars for August 2002 compared to August 2001. Car sales for the month of August 2002 were 114, while August 2001 showed monthly sales at 146. Year-to-date (YTD) sales show 835 cars have been sold in the area so far this year, while the same time period in 2001 showed car sales at 861. Honda is by far the best-selling car model for the area, accounting for 15.1 percent of all car purchases in the 2001 August YTD totals, and 15.8 percent of the cars in 2002 August YTD totals. Pontiac and Toyota are the next largest sellers, with Ford and Chevrolet coming in fourth and fifth, respectively.

TRUCKS—Although 308 new trucks were sold in the area in August 2002, this represented 25 fewer sales than for the same time period in 2001. Year-to-date sales for 2002 totaled 2,411, which is 308 higher than for the same time period in 2001. Top truck sellers in Northeast Idaho and Bingham County include Chevrolet at 30.2 of the total truck sales in 2002 YTD totals (729 trucks). Ford comes in second at 575 sales, followed by GMC at 450 sales, and Dodge at 286 trucks. In 2001 YTD totals, Ford came in first, selling 19 more trucks than Chevrolet. These totals do not include fleet sales.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Sabia Inc., a company that manufactures and services mineral material analyzers, celebrated with a ribbon cutting in August at its new location in the Innovation Center on Yellowstone Avenue in Idaho Falls. The company manufactures machines that give spectroscopic readouts of elements in non-homogeneous materials such as coal, phosphates, or concrete. Samples of the material are lowered into the machine, then they are bombarded by neutrons. The materials emit gamma rays that are picked up by sensors and translated into values by a computer software program. Normally, companies have to send samples of their materials to labs and wait to find out what the percentage of components are in the materials, while they continue to mine or manufacture. With this machine, companies can get immediate results from the materials they test. This gives them the edge to know before they start working what the materials consist of so they can make immediate changes if necessary. Though the \$100,000 machines may seem high-priced to the general public, they will save companies millions of dollars that currently are being paid to the sampling

labs. The machines only weigh 800 pounds compared to the traditional three- or four-story sampling towers and labs. Sabia expects to produce 100 units and expand from its current three employees to ten in 2003. The company settled in Idaho Falls for two reasons: Clinton Lingren, president and CEO of the company, and his wife are natives of the area; and the company received low-interest loans from the Regional Development Alliance and the Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council. The proximity of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory also is a plus.

Madison County

- Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) continues to shape the future of Rexburg. The university again enjoyed a record-breaking number of registrations for its fall semester, at over 10,700 students. This is 16 percent more than last year at the same time. Students of the private, church-owned university come from all 50 states and nearly 40 foreign countries. Anticipating the increase, the university has just finished the Gordon B. Hinckley Building which will help accommodate the increased number of students. The building is 52,000-square feet and includes a chapel, gymnasium, multipurpose area, two full kitchens, and numerous classrooms. It will be dedicated on October 22. Additions to two buildings are underway to provide classrooms, advising space, and laboratory area. The second floor of the Austin Building was recently remodeled, and new classroom space and additional faculty offices will be added to the building's southeast corner. A completion date has been set for fall 2003. Thirty new faculty members have been hired for new baccalaureate programs to accommodate the increased student population and to replace retiring faculty members. This increased number of students also brings changes to Rexburg. District 7 Health Department announced an expansion to accommodate the increased number of married students and their children. Estimates indicate that the number of married students has grown from 546 in the fall of 2000 to the current 1,929, creating a need for married student housing, the construction of which currently is underway. Rexburg's newest biotech company, Collaborative Genetics, recently signed an agreement with BYU-I to hire students as interns to work in research and development for the company. Many more changes and developments are expected to arise with the growing university.

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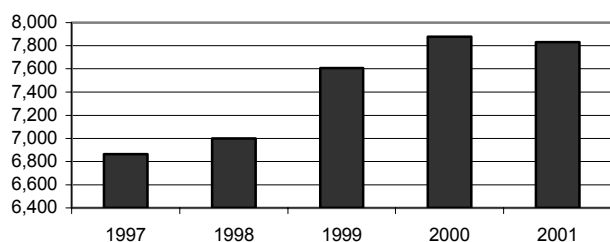
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN IDAHO

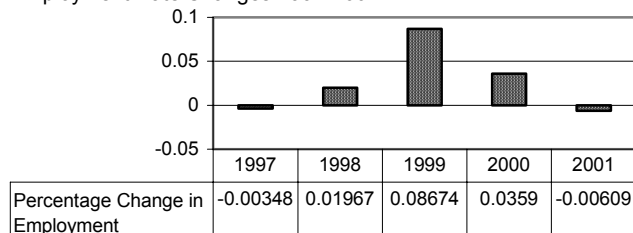
One way to measure an economy's health is to look at the employment trends in the building construction industry. The industry is made up of two parts—residential building construction (houses, apartments) and commercial building construction (stores, businesses, etc.). Idaho had experienced strong employment growth in general building construction from 1997-2001 (see FYI Chart 1). Although employment decreased slightly in 2001, Idaho still added nearly 1,000 new jobs in five years, resulting in a 14.1 percent growth rate in general building construction.

FYI Chart 1: Idaho Construction
Average Employment 1997-2001



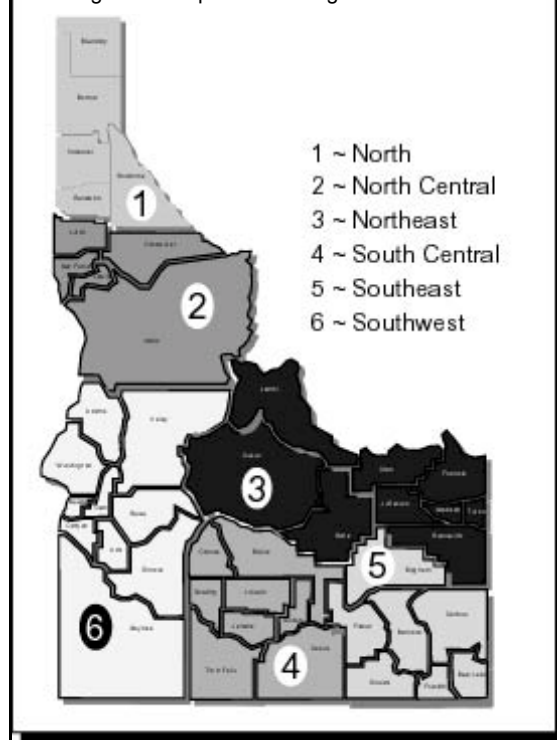
Idaho's building construction employment growth rates for each year from 1997 through 2001 are shown on FYI Chart 1A. In 1997 there was a small decrease in employment from the previous year. From 1998 through 2000, Idaho experienced strong growth in building construction employment. In 1998, building construction increased by 2 percent and in 1999, which was a good year for the Idaho economy, building construction increased by an impressive 8.7 percent. The year 2000 also showed good, but slowing growth, which turned into a decline in 2001.

FYI Chart 1A: Idaho Construction
Employment Rate Changes 1997-2001



When viewed on a regional level in Idaho, the employment growth in building construction has been varied. Idaho is divided into six regions for which monthly employment estimates are made. These regions are North, North Central, Northeast, South Central, Southwest (includes Boise MSA) and Southeast (see FYI Figure 1).

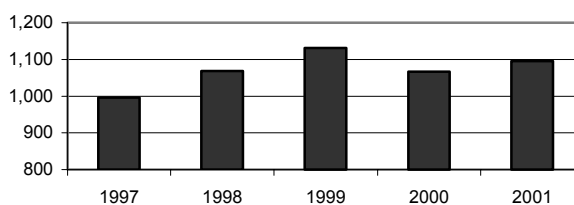
FYI Figure 1: Map of Idaho Regions



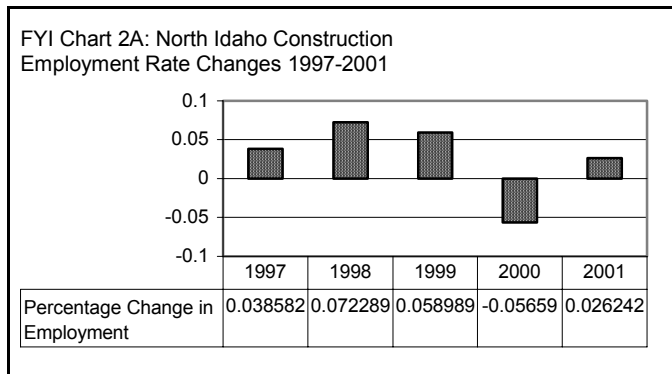
North Idaho – Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties

North Idaho's general building construction industry makes up approximately 14.4 percent of the state total for this industry. North Idaho's employment in this industry experienced steady gains from 1997 with good growth in 1998 and in 1999, as shown in FYI Chart 2. Unfortunately, 2000

FYI Chart 2: North Idaho Construction
Average Employment 1997-2001



saw an employment decrease nearly equal to the employment increase in 1999, deflating the 2000 employment levels in North Idaho's building industry back down near the 1998 level. Unlike the state total in 2001, however, North Idaho's building construction rebounded and had an increase in employment, which left North Idaho's employment in this industry about 10 percent higher in 2001 than in 1997.

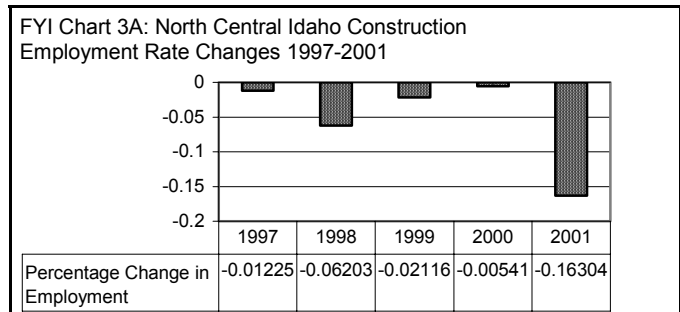
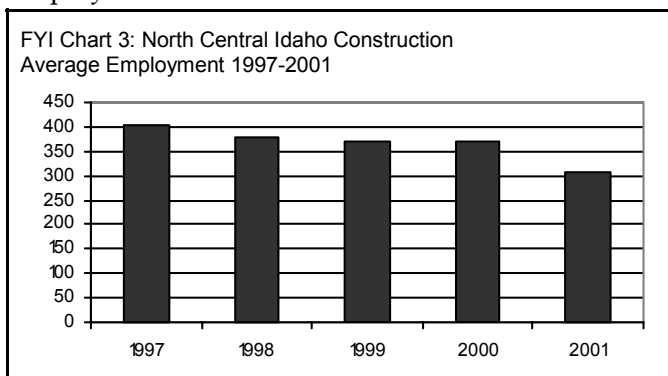


While North Idaho's employment in building construction showed growth in 1997, 1998, and 1999, it dropped nearly 6 percent in 2000 (see FYI Chart 2A). Though employment increased in 2001, it only made up for about half of the loss experienced in 2000.

North Central Idaho - Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties

North Central Idaho's building construction industry average employment since 1997 has consistently made up approximately 5 percent of the state total. North Central Idaho experienced a steady decline in building construction employment every year between 1997 and 2001, as shown in FYI Chart 3. This was the only area of Idaho in which this trend occurred.

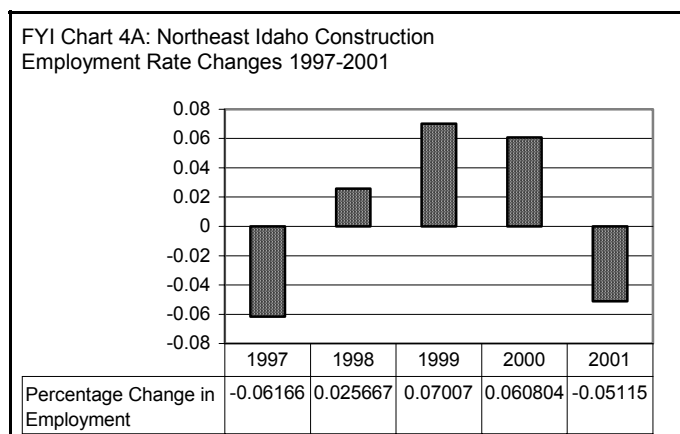
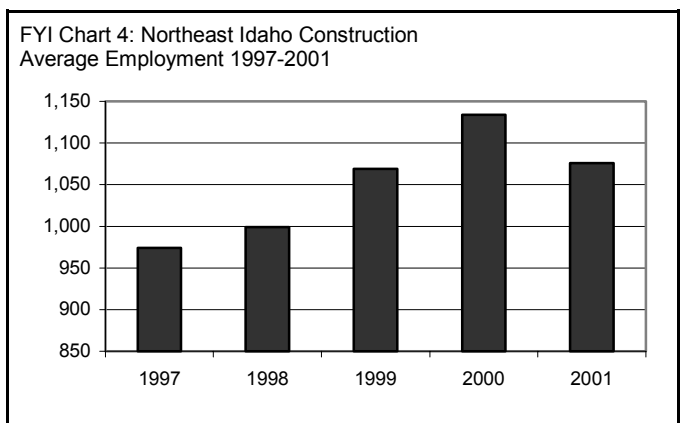
The leanest years in terms of employment growth rates for this region occurred in 1998 and 2001, as shown in FYI Chart 3A. The five years of employment declines in North Central Idaho



amount to a loss of 24 percent of the building construction jobs in this area of the state. North Central Idaho suffered the greatest decline in the building construction industry of any Idaho region.

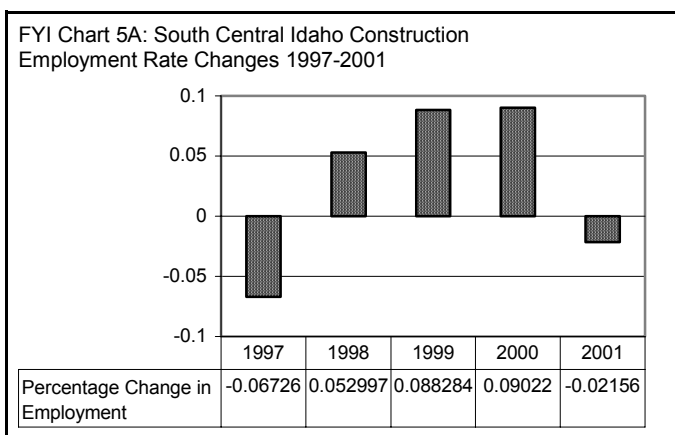
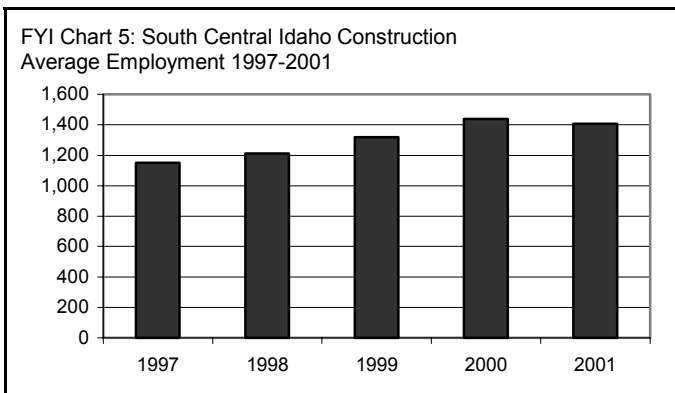
Northeast Idaho - Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties

Northeast Idaho makes up approximately 14 percent of the statewide total employment in the building industry. This part of the state followed the statewide employment trends in which growth was realized from 1998 to 2000, with a decrease in 2001. (See FYI Chart 4.) Despite the drop in employment in 2001, building construction employment in Northeast Idaho grew by 10 percent from 1997 to 2001. Changes in employment growth rates for Northeast Idaho for 1997-2001 are shown in FYI Chart 4A.



South Central Idaho – Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties

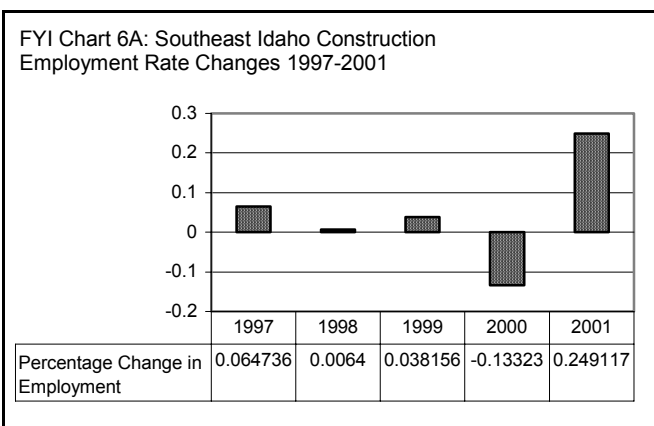
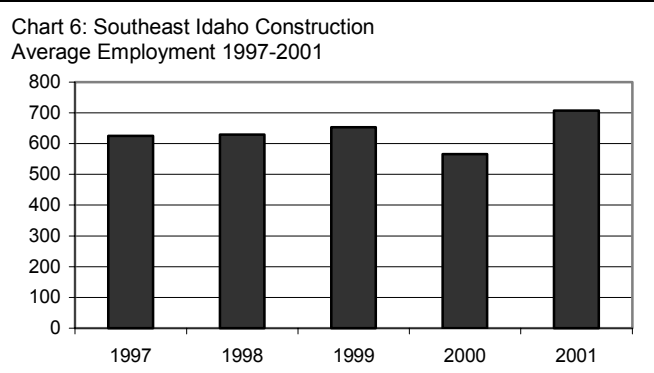
South Central Idaho makes up about 17.5 percent of the state employment in the building construction industry. The region followed the statewide trends just as the Northeast region did, showing steady employment growth from 1997 to 2001 when a small decline occurred (see FYI Chart 5). Despite 2001, South Central Idaho still experienced good growth in building construction during the five-year period of 1997-2001. The employment growth rates during that time period are shown in FYI Chart 5A.



South Central Idaho experienced the largest five-year gain in employment out of Idaho's six regions with an increase in building construction jobs of 22.2 percent.

Southeast Idaho – Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power Counties

Southeast Idaho makes up an average of 8.6 percent of statewide building construction employment. From 1997 to 2001, Southeast Idaho showed an overall increase in building construction employment of 13.1 percent. Employment levels for Southeast Idaho from 1997 to 2001 are shown in FYI Chart 6.

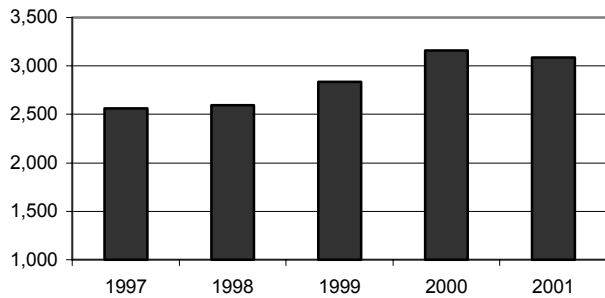


Southeast Idaho is one of three Idaho regions to show an employment increase in the building construction industry in 1997, and one of two regions to have an increase in 2001, bucking the statewide trend. Employment gains occurred from 1997 to 2000 when employment dropped. Independent of the statewide trend, however, 2001 showed a very strong gain in employment in Southeast Idaho, recovering from the loss in 2000 to post the area's largest employment figures of the five-year period. Employment growth rates for Southeast Idaho from 1997 to 2001 are shown in FYI Chart 6A.

Southwest Idaho – Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties

Southwest Idaho has the largest number of building construction workers of all six regions, making up 38.2 percent of the state total. This region was second to South Central Idaho in the five-year employment growth rate with a 20.5 percent increase in employment. However, the region created more new jobs—over 500—than any other region, which represented more than 50 percent of the state's total increase in jobs in this industry. The employment levels for Southwest Idaho from 1997 to 2001 are shown in FYI Chart 7. Employment growth rates for Southwest Idaho in the building

FYI Chart 7: Southwest Idaho Construction
Average Employment 1997-2001

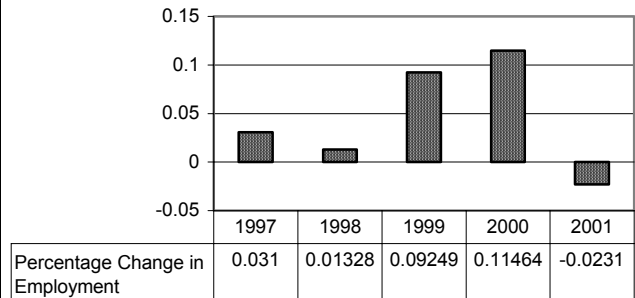


construction industry from 1997 to 2001 are shown in FYI Chart 7A. Despite a decrease in 2001, Southwest Idaho made strong gains in employment over the five-year period.

Summary

Building construction in Idaho has increased over the five-year period covering 1997 to 2001. With an increase of 14.1 percent statewide, five of the six regions in Idaho contributed to this increase in employment. Despite a slowdown in 2001, two regions still made employment gains although the state as a whole decreased in employment in this

FYI Chart 7A: Southwest Idaho Construction
Employment Rate Changes 1997-2001



industry. South Central Idaho had the largest percentage increase in employment in Idaho, while Southwest Idaho had the largest numerical gain, accounting for more than 50 percent of the increase statewide. Although the general building construction industry slowed in 2001, Idaho still experienced strong growth from 1997 to 2001.

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Seaport News — (continued from page 10)

- While the resource economy that supports many of the region's manufacturing jobs flounders, ATK's CCI-Speer operation in Lewiston is growing, propelled by the expansion of law enforcement after September 11. ATK is a weapons and aerospace manufacturer. Ammunition made in Lewiston is being purchased for new officers who were hired after September 11, including federal air marshals. ATK, which used to be known as Blount, has employed about 100 new workers, bringing the total in Lewiston to 750, according to company officials.
- While ATK is thriving after September 11, other Lewiston businesses suffered, especially those at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport. A restaurant at the airport closed for a time after September 11, then reopened under new management. Cloud Nine Salon at the airport closed for a short time in April after two stylists left for other jobs. The Hertz Rent A Car at the airport waived policies on one-way travel and made other accommodations to help people get home while airplanes were grounded after September 11. However, the business suffered financially because some cars ended up so far away they had to be returned by

truck. Map Travel reported negative sales after September 11, returning more to customers in refunds than it was making selling trips. But as security measures diminished throughout the country and time passed, customers returned. Map Travel experienced a key day on December 26 when agents who had been booking corporate travel almost exclusively saw a rebound in vacation packages at a time of year that sector normally is quiet. Hertz officials say they anticipate finishing this year stronger than last year in Lewiston. According to both Hertz and Map Travel, people seem to have adopted the attitude that they can't control what will happen, so they might as well make the trips they want.

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CENSUS 2000 LABOR FORCE BY GENDER & RACE

Idaho labor force data by gender and race/ethnicity from the 2000 census was recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. *Data for state labor force components can be found in FYI Table 1 by gender, FYI Table 2 by race/ethnicity breakouts, and FYI Table 3 race/ethnicity data, broken out by gender.*

Between April 1990 and April 2000, Idaho's labor force grew by nearly 170,000 persons, or 34.58 percent, compared to an increase of more than 287,000 people, or 28.53 percent, in population. This means that in 2000, more of Idaho's population 16 years and older (the labor force) was working than in 1990.

Gender. A breakdown by gender provides more specific information about the changes in Idaho's population and labor force during the 1990s. For instance, the proportion of females to males in Idaho's labor force grew at a faster rate during the 1990s than

in the 1980s. From April 1990 to April 2000, the number of males in the labor force increased 31.32 percent compared to a 38.74 percent growth in the number females in the labor force. Both groups grew at a faster rate than the population did during the 1990s, with an increase of 147,000, or 29.48 percent, in the number of males in the population and an increase of over 139,000, or 27.58 percent, in the number of females. The number of unemployed males increased at a faster rate than the number of unemployed females—28.27 percent for males compared to 24.29 percent for females. However, the number of employed females grew at a much faster rate than the number of employed males—39.68 percent for females compared to 31.52 percent for males. The change in the labor force components had an interesting effect on the unemployment rate. In 1990, Idaho's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. The breakdown in the unemployment rate for males and females was similar at 6.2 percent and 6.1

FYI Table 1: Idaho Labor Force by Gender

State of Idaho	2000 Census			1990 Census			Percent Change		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Civilian Labor Force	636,237	348,573	287,664	472,773	265,440	207,333	34.58	31.32	38.74
Unemployed	36,784	21,065	15,719	29,070	16,423	12,647	26.54	28.27	24.29
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	6.0	5.5	6.1	6.2	6.1			
Total Employment	599,453	327,508	271,945	443,703	249,017	194,686	35.10	31.52	39.68
Percent of:	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female			
Civilian Labor Force	100.00	54.79	45.21	100.00	56.15	43.85			
Unemployed	5.78	3.31	2.47	6.15	3.47	2.68			
Total Employment	94.22	51.48	42.74	93.85	52.67	41.18			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, September 2000

FYI Table 2: Labor Force by Race/Ethnicity

State of Idaho	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	636,237	585,069	2,086	7,820	5,912	573	24,207	10,570	42,690	569,150
Unemployed	36,784	31,618	126	1,264	341	78	2,446	911	4,164	30,216
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	5.4	6.0	16.2	5.8	13.6	10.1	8.6	9.8	5.3
Total Employment	599,453	553,451	1,960	6,556	5,571	495	21,761	9,659	38,526	538,934
Percent of:	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	100	91.96	0.33	1.23	0.93	0.09	3.80	1.66	6.71	89.46
Unemployed	100	85.96	0.34	3.44	0.93	0.21	6.65	2.48	11.32	82.14
Total Employment	100	92.33	0.33	1.09	0.93	0.08	3.63	1.61	6.43	89.90

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, September 2002

percent, respectively. However, in 2000 the overall unemployment rate had dropped to 5.8 percent, but with a dramatic decrease in the female unemployment rate to 5.5 percent. The unemployment rate for males dropped slightly to 6.0 percent, a loss of two-tenths of a percentage point.

While a comparison of the labor force by gender between 1990 and 2000 census data can be made, the race/ethnicity categories are not directly comparable. The following statement from the U.S. Census Bureau explains why that is not possible.

Comparability. The data on race in Census 2000 are not directly comparable to those collected in previous censuses. The October 1997 revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget led to changes in the question on race for

Census 2000. The Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal data were the first to reflect these changes. First, respondents were allowed to select more than one category for race. Second, the sequence of the questions on race and Hispanic origin changed. In 1990, the question on race (Item 4) preceded the question on Hispanic origin (Item 7) with two intervening questions. For Census 2000, the question on race immediately follows the question on Hispanic origin. Third, there were terminology changes to the response categories, such as spelling out "American" instead of "Amer." for the American Indian or Alaska Native category; and adding "Native" to the Hawaiian response category. The 1990 category, "Other race," was renamed "Some other race." Other differences that may affect comparability involve the

FYI Table 3: Labor Force by Race and Gender										
2000 Census - Male										
State of Idaho	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	348,573	318,890	1,424	4,024	2,906	317	15,195	5,817	26,091	309,432
Unemployed	21,065	18,406	98	751	115	19	1,222	454	2,265	17,565
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	5.8	6.9	18.7	4.0	6.0	8.0	7.8	8.7	5.7
Total Employment	327,508	300,484	1,326	3,273	2,791	298	13,973	5,363	23,826	291,867
Percent of:	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	100.00	91.48	0.41	1.15	0.83	0.09	4.36	1.67	7.49	88.77
Unemployed	6.04	5.28	0.03	0.22	0.03	0.01	0.35	0.13	0.65	5.04
Total Employment	93.96	86.20	0.38	0.94	0.80	0.09	4.01	1.54	6.84	83.73
2000 Census - Female										
State of Idaho	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	287,664	266,179	662	3,796	3,006	256	9,012	4,753	16,599	259,718
Unemployed	15,719	13,212	28	513	226	59	1,224	457	1,899	12,651
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	5.0	4.2	13.5	7.5	23.0	13.6	9.6	11.4	4.9
Total Employment	271,945	252,967	634	3,283	2,780	197	7,788	4,296	14,700	247,067
Percent of:	Total	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic	White Alone Not Hispanic
Civilian Labor Force	100.00	92.53	0.23	1.32	1.04	0.09	3.13	1.65	5.77	90.29
Unemployed	5.46	4.59	0.01	0.18	0.08	0.02	0.43	0.16	0.66	4.40
Total Employment	94.54	87.94	0.22	1.14	0.97	0.07	2.71	1.49	5.11	85.89

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, September 2002

individual categories on the Census 2000 questionnaire. The 1990 category, "Asian and Pacific Islander," was separated into two categories, "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander" for Census 2000. Accordingly, on the Census 2000 questionnaire, there were seven Asian categories and four Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories. The two residual categories, "Other Asian" and "Other Pacific Islander," replaced the 1990 single category "Other API." The 1990 categories, "American Indian," "Eskimo," and "Aleut," were combined into "American Indian and Alaska Native." American Indians and Alaska Natives can report one or more tribes.

As in 1980 and 1990, people who reported a Hispanic or Latino ethnicity in the question on race and did not mark a specific race category were classified in the "Some other race" category ("Other" in 1980 and "Other race" in 1990). They commonly provided a write-in entry such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Latino. In the 1970 census, most of these responses were included in the "White" category. In addition, some ethnic entries that in 1990 may have been coded as White or Black are now shown in the "Some other race" group.

Race/Ethnicity. Since the 2000 data is not comparable to the 1990 data, it is difficult to comment on the changes in the last decade. If the respondents selected one of the 57 multiple race choices, they were classified as "Two or More Races." The following are highlights of the race/ethnicity findings for Idaho in the 2000 census.

Labor Force

- The *White Alone* category had the largest labor force.
- *Other Race* (not one of the five major groups) had the second largest labor force.
- More than 10,000 persons in the labor force identified themselves as multi-racial.
- *Hispanics* comprise 6.7 percent of the labor force.

Unemployment

- *American Indian & Alaska Native*, the third largest racial group, had the highest unemployment rate – 16.2 percent.
- The percent of the race unemployed was nearly double the percent employed in the categories of *American Indian & Alaska Native*, *Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander*, and *Other Race*.

- The percent of *Hispanics* unemployed was double the percent employed.
- Females had a lower unemployment rate than males in the categories of *White*, *Black*, and *American Indian & Alaska Native*.
- *American Indian & Alaska Native* males had the highest unemployment rate among all of the male groups - 18.7 percent.
- *Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander* females had the highest unemployment rate among all of the female groups – 23.0 percent.

Labor force data by gender and race/ethnicity is not only interesting, it is also used by a variety of people including social and economic planners, educators, and grant writers. Although the census is conducted only once every 10 years, the Idaho Department of Labor will project the information for the current year and the next year. This will be included in the Department's annual demographic profile of the state, which will be available in November at <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/>.

Due to the large amount of data created from the census, county labor force data by gender and race/ethnicity is available only upon request. The information will be available on the Department's Internet site in late October or early November at <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/>.

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Ask the Economist

This column addresses common questions that our readers have on the data we gather and provide. Please send your questions, comments, or suggestions via e-mail to lmi@jobservice.us or regular mail to Public Affairs, Idaho Department of Labor, 317 W. Main St., Boise, ID 83735.

This month we address the question “How can the unemployment rate be accurate when it only includes people receiving unemployment insurance benefits and many people who are out of work don’t receive unemployment insurance benefits?”

Many people assume that the unemployment rate is based only on unemployment insurance (UI) claims, but actually it is based on several elements and takes into consideration that many unemployed people do not receive UI benefits.

Unemployed people can be assigned to one of these four categories:

- (1) **job losers** – people who lost their most recent jobs, whether they were laid off due to economic conditions, fired for incompetence or insubordination, or lost their jobs when their own businesses failed;
- (2) **job leavers** – people who voluntarily left their last jobs and immediately began seeking new jobs;
- (3) **new entrants** to the labor market who haven’t found jobs yet (people who are seeking work for the first time); and
- (4) **re-entrants** who haven’t found jobs yet (people who worked before, but stopped working and looking for work for a period of time, and now are looking for work again. Examples include: people who left the labor market to be full-time homemakers and now are looking for work; people who have been full-time students and start looking for work when school ends; people who retired and then decide to look for work; and people who have been in prison and now are looking for work).

Normally, only job losers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own would receive UI benefits. Job leavers normally would not be eligible for UI benefits, because they voluntarily left their jobs. New entrants and re-entrants haven’t been working, so they would not be eligible for UI benefits. So, only job losers show up in UI data. Admittedly, the job losers make up the largest and most volatile of the four categories. Although all the categories will be influenced by economic conditions, job losers are the most influenced by the economic cycle. When the economy is expanding, there are fewer job losers. After the economy enters a recession, there usually is a sharp

increase in job losers. UI data gives us valuable information about this volatile category of unemployed workers.

In addition to UI claims, the economic model that creates Idaho’s unemployment rate relies on information from other sources to estimate total unemployment, including people from all four categories. An important source of information is the Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted each month by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS is the world’s largest survey and involves about 50,000 households throughout the United States each month. The CPS asks each household to answer questions about employment and job search activity for all household members 16 years and over. Their responses allow the CPS to classify each household member as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. The U.S. unemployment rate comes directly from the CPS. Idaho’s unemployment rate is partly based on the responses of the 762 Idaho households answering the CPS each month. From the CPS, we get important information about all unemployed people including job leavers, new entrants, and re-entrants.

The economic model also estimates the number of residents employed in Idaho, using estimates of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in Idaho, based on a monthly survey of approximately 3,200 Idaho employers. The estimate of employed residents, in turn, affects the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is calculated by adding the number of employed residents and the number of unemployed residents to obtain the civilian labor force. Then the civilian labor force number is divided by the number of unemployed residents to obtain the unemployment rate.

Although there are other small factors involved with developing the unemployment rate, the bottom line is that the Idaho Department of Labor and its partner, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, make every effort to include all categories of unemployed people. Although UI data plays a role in developing Idaho’s unemployment rate, it is only one of many information sources used to prepare a meaningful estimate of unemployed Idaho residents.

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Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.